

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/694,694

Examiner

Thomas H. Parsons

Applicant(s)

DAVE ET AL.

Art Unit

1745

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 27 February 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Response to Amendment***

This is in response to the Amendment filed 27 February 2006.

**(Previous) DETAILED ACTION**

***Specification***

1. The objection to the disclosure because of minor informalities has been **withdrawn** in view of Applicants' amendment.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention has been **withdrawn** in view of Applicants' amendment.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments, see page 5, line 13 through page 6, line 3, filed 27 February 2006, with respect to claims 1-8 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims have been **withdrawn**.

***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claimed invention is directed towards a plurality of cooler plates interposed between a group of fuel cells; each cooler plate having an internal coolant flow channel in fluid communication with an inlet opening and an outlet opening disposed in one or more projections of the cooler plate and perpendicular to the cooler plate, the projections extending outwardly from the planforms of the fuel cells; and a plurality of seal assemblies, each disposed between corresponding projections of proximate cooler plates and having a fluid passageway in fluid communication with respective ones of the inlet and outlet openings to form inlet and outlet manifolds to permit coolant flow between cooler plates.

The prior art of record discloses a plurality of cooler plates interposed between a group of fuel cells; each cooler plate having an internal coolant flow channel in fluid communication with an inlet opening and an outlet opening disposed in one or more projections of the cooler plate and parallel to the cooler plate, the projections extending outwardly from the planforms of the fuel cells; and a plurality of seal assemblies, each disposed into a clearance between process air manifolds and the projections of the cooling plates.

However, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest an inlet opening and an outlet opening disposed in one or more projections of the cooler plate wherein the openings are perpendicular to the cooler plate, and seal assemblies having a fluid passageway in fluid communication with the inlet and outlet openings to form inlet and outlet manifolds to permit coolant flow between cooler plates. The prior art of record is not concerned with permitting coolant flow between cooler plates.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas H. Parsons whose telephone number is (571) 272-1290. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-4:30) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas H Parsons  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1745

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PATRICK JOSEPH RYAN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER